

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

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O R 232045Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1009

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

S E C R E T JIDDA 02882

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: SA, PFOR, US, IS, XF

SUBJECT: SAG ADVOCATES FIRMNESS IN U.S. DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL

REF: (A) JIDDA 2879; (B) JIDDA 2881

SUMMARY: CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD EXPRESSED GRATIFICATION THE U.S. WAS APPARENTLY CURTAILING ARMS SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL. THEY HOPED THE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD CONTINUE THIS POLICY OF FIRMNESS. THEY EXPRESSED CONCERN HOWEVER ABOUT ISRAEL'S EXPANDING PRESENCE IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. IS THERE SOME PUBLIC STATEMENT OF OURS THAT CAN SERVE TO REASSURE THEM? THEY WILL BE LOOKING FOR SOME ANSWER AFTER OUR POLICY REASSESSMENT IS COMPLETE. END SUMMARY.

1. CROWN PRINCE FAHD AND MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS PRINCE SAUD BIN FAISAL, ASKED THE AMBASSADOR ON SECRET

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APRIL 23 ABOUT ISRAELI FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON'S RECENT

STATEMENT THAT ISRAEL WOULD SHOW NO RPT NO FLEXIBILITY
IN PEACE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL THE U.S. RESUMED ARMED
SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL.

2. THEY SAID THEY WERE GRATIFIED TO LEARN FROM THIS
THAT THE U.S. HAD APPARENTLY CURTAILED--PERHAPS EVEN
STOPPED--ARMS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL AND THAT ISRAEL WAS
APPARENTLY FOR THE FIRST TIME BEGINNING TO REALIZE THAT
THE U.S. WAS CAPABLE OF RESISTING ISRAELI
POLITICAL PRESSURE.

3. PRINCE FAHD SAID HE HAD TOLD THE AMBASSADOR REPEAT-
EDLY, KING FAISAL HAD TOLD SECRETARY KISSINGER AND THE
AMBASSADOR, AND IN ONE OF KING FAISAL'S LAST MESSAGES TO
PRESIDENT FORD, HE HAD DESCRIBED THE FAILURE OF THE OLD
AMERICAN POLICY OF TRYING TO BUY ISRAELI CONCESSIONS
WITH UNLIMITED MILITARY AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. BY
NOW FAHD SAID HE HOPED THE U.S. WOULD SEE THAT ASSISTANCE
"INCREASES ISRAELI ARROGANCE NOT ISRAELI FLEXIBILITY."

4. FAHD SAID HE WISHED TO URGE SECRETARY KISSINGER AND
PRESIDENT FORD TO REMAIN FIRM. THE ARABS WANT PEACE.
PRESIDENT SADAT IS NOW FIRMLY IN THE U.S. CAMP; THERE CAN
BE NO DOUBT ABOUT SAUDI ARABIA; AND SADAT AND FAHD WORKING
TOGETHER WILL HAVE NO TROUBLE WITH ASAD (REF A). THE
ARABS BELIEVE THEY CAN WORK OUT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS
SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES IN THE MIDDLE EAST, BUT
THEY MUST HAVE THEIR LAND BACK. ONLY THE UNITED STATES
CAN COMPEL ISRAEL TO YIELD THEM AND ALL ARABS, HE SAID,
ARE CONVINCED THAT THIS CAN BE DONE ONLY BY MAINTAINING
PRESSURE, I.E. BY CONTINUING TO WITHHOLD ASSISTANCE.

5. BOTH FAHD AND SAUD CALLED THE AMBASSADOR'S ATTENTION
TO RECENT GOI ANNOUNCEMENTS ABOUT EXPANDING ISRAEL'S PRESENCE
AND SETTLEMENTS IN GOLAN, THE WEST BANK AND ESPECIALLY
IN JERUSALEM. THEY SAID THE LATE OMAR SAQQAF HAD REPEATEDLY
ASKED THE AMBASSADOR IF SUCH ISRAELI PROJECTS DID NOT
PROVE THAT ISRAEL NEVER INTENDED TO GIVE UP THESE LANDS, AND
RECALLED SAQQAF HAD ALSO ASKED WHAT THE U.S. INTENDED TO DO
ABOUT THEM. BOTH MEN SAID THEY KNEW OUR RESPONSE HAD BEEN THAT
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NOTHING ISRAEL DID WOULD PREJUDICE THE FINAL PEACE
SETTLEMENT. BUT THEY ASKED IF THE U.S. HAD EVER PRO-
TESTED THE ISRAELI ACTIONS. THERE HAD CERTAINLY BEEN
NO PUBLIC CONDEMNATION, THEY SAID, AND THEY ASKED IF ISRAEL FROM
THIS COULD NOT LEGITIMATELY CONCLUDE THAT THE U.S. AT
LEAST TACITLY APPROVED OF THE COLONIZING OF ARAB LANDS.

6. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: THE EXPANSION OF THE

ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS IN THE LANDS OCCUPIED IN 1967 IS OF GREAT CONCERN TO THE SAUDIS. IS THERE ANYTHING WE HAVE SAID OR DONE IN ISRAEL THAT WOULD REASSURE THE SAUDIS THAT WE DO NOT CONDONE ISRAELI ANNEX ACTIONS? THE SAUDIS WILL NOT PRESS FOR AN ANSWER PENDING COMPLETION OF THE POLICY REASSESSMENT, BUT THEY WILL EXPECT AN ANSWER SHORTLY AFTER IT IS FINISHED.

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